

Wednesday, March 11, 1998

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House committees ordered reported 20 sundry measures.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1715–S1809

Measures Introduced: Seven bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1741–1747. Page S1772

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows:
S. Res. 187, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China. Page S1772

Measures Passed:

Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act: Senate passed S. 1605, to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers, after agreeing to a committee amendment. Pages S1803–07

U.S./Thailand Bilateral Relations: Senate agreed to S. Res. 174, to state the sense of the Senate that Thailand is a key partner and friend of the United States, has committed itself to executing its responsibilities under its arrangements with the International Monetary Fund, and that the United States should be prepared to take appropriate steps to ensure continued close bilateral relations, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: Pages S1807–08

Chafee (for Roth) Amendment No. 1980, relating to the relationship between the United States and Thailand. Page S1807

Chafee Amendment No. 1981, to amend the preamble. Page S1807

ISTEA Authorization: Senate resumed consideration of S. 1173, to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, with a modified committee amendment in the nature of a substitute (Amendment No. 1676), taking action on amendments proposed thereto, as follows: Pages S1723–66

Adopted:

Chafee Amendment No. 1951 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide additional assistance to certain donor States. Pages S1723–24, S1728, S1762
Subsequently, the amendment was modified. Page S1762

Bond/Reid Amendment No. 1952 (to Amendment No. 1676), to express the sense of the Senate concerning the operation of certain double-trailer and triple-trailer trucks. Pages S1724–26

McCain/Hollings Amendment No. 1953 (to Amendment No. 1676), to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to implement hazardous material transportation pilot programs for certain farm service vehicles. Pages S1726–27

Abraham/Levin Amendment No. 1380 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide for continuation of eligibility for the International Bridge, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Pages S1728–29

Abraham Amendment No. 1955 (to Amendment No. 1676), to improve the provisions relating to credit for acquired lands. Pages S1729–30

Brownback Amendment No. 1956 (to Amendment No. 1676), relating to trail use and management of railroad rights-of-way. Pages S1730–32, S1734

Abraham Modified Amendment No. 1911 (to Amendment No. 1676), to save lives and prevent injuries to children in motor vehicles through an improved national, State, and local child protection program. Pages S1732–34, S1740

Warner (for Hutchinson) Amendment No. 1957 (to Amendment No. 1676), to allow States to use a portion of their surface transportation funds to combat fuel tax evasion. Pages S1734–35

Warner (for Stevens) Amendment No. 1958 (to Amendment No. 1676), to allow for the application of anti-icing applications to be eligible for certain Federal aid highway funds. Page S1735

Warner (for Murkowski/Stevens) Amendment No. 1769 (to Amendment No. 1676), to repeal certain redundant transportation planning requirements. Pages S1735–36

Warner (for Specter/Moynihan/Santorum) Amendment No. 1838 (to Amendment No. 1676), to improve the magnetic levitation transportation technology deployment program. **Pages S1736, S1738**

Warner (for Campbell/Gramm) Amendment No. 1959 (to Amendment No. 1676), to establish a prohibition on lobbying activities. **Pages S1736–38**

Warner/Chafee/Baucus Amendment No. 1960 (to Amendment No. 1676), to give preference under the Interstate 4R and bridge discretionary program to States that are bordered by 2 navigable rivers that each comprise at least 10 percent of the boundary of the State. **Page S1738**

Warner (for Levin/Abraham) Amendment No. 1961 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide that a State with respect to which certain conditions are met shall be eligible for the funds made available to carry out the high density transportation program that remain after each State that meets the primary eligibility criteria for the program has received the minimum amount of funds. **Pages S1738–39**

Baucus (for Daschle) Amendment No. 1962 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide additional uses for the payment by Amtrak to non-Amtrak States. **Pages S1739–40**

Roth Amendment No. 1963 (to Amendment No. 1676), to extend for six years the existing transportation taxes and tax credits, to extend the ethanol tax exemption, to provide for a repeal of the tax on diesel fuel used by trains, and to provide for an increase in the tax exemption for employer-provided transit passes. **Pages S1741–58, S1760**

McConnell Amendment No. 1969 (to Amendment No. 1676), to allow entities and persons to comply with court orders relating to disadvantaged business enterprises and to require the Comptroller General to carry out a biennial review of the impact of complying with requirements relating to disadvantaged business enterprises. **Pages S1758–59**

Chafee (for Byrd) Amendment No. 1970 (to Amendment No. 1676), to impose certain requirements concerning the biennial infrastructure investment needs report. **Page S1760**

Chafee (for Moseley-Braun) Amendment No. 1971 (to Amendment No. 1676), to improve highway safety by utilizing different crash cushion designs. **Page S1760**

Chafee (for Sarbanes) Amendment No. 1972 (to Amendment No. 1676), to authorize the continuance of commercial operations at the service plazas on the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway. **Page S1760**

Chafee (for Moynihan) Amendment No. 1973 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide for the inclusion of the Secretary of Transportation and Federal Railroad Administrator on the Boards of Directors of the

Pennsylvania Station Redevelopment Corporation and the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation. **Page S1760**

Chafee (for McCain) Amendment No. 1974 (to Amendment No. 1676), to reduce the amounts authorized to be appropriated for motor carrier safety. **Pages S1760–61**

Chafee Amendment No. 1975 (to Amendment No. 1676), to make a technical correction. **Pages S1760–61**

Stevens Amendment No. 1976 (to Amendment No. 1676), to authorize the ferry discretionary program. **Pages S1761–62**

Warner (for Cleland) Amendment No. 1977 (to Amendment No. 1676), to add certain counties to the Appalachian region for the purposes of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965. **Page S1763**

Chafee (for Stevens/Murkowski) Amendment No. 1979 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide for the reconstruction of national defense highways located outside the United States. **Pages S1763–65**

Jeffords Modified Amendment No. 1716 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide for the preservation of historic covered bridges in the United States. **Pages S1765–66**

Rejected:

McCain Amendment No. 1968 (to Amendment No. 1963), to prohibit extension of inequitable ethanol subsidies. (By 71 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. 27), Senate tabled the amendment. **Pages S1753–57**)

Pending:

McCain Amendment No. 1726 (to Amendment No. 1676), to provide that demonstration projects shall be subject to any limitation on obligations established by law that applies in Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs. **Pages S1727–28, S1740–41**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 18 yeas to 80 nays (Vote No. 26), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected a motion to waive section 311(a)(2)(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 with respect to the consideration of Mack Amendment No. 1906 (to Amendment No. 1963), to repeal the 4.3-cent transportation motor fuels excise tax. Subsequently, a point of order that the amendment was in violation of the Congressional Budget Act was sustained, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S1743–52**

By 96 yeas to 3 nays (Vote 28), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted

in the affirmative, Senate agreed to close further debate on the modified committee amendment in the nature of a substitute (Amendment No. 1676).

Pages S1762–63

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill on Thursday, March 12, 1998.

Page S1808

Messages From the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report of a Presidential Determination (98–17) relative to Vietnam; referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–110).

Page S1772

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Hilda G. Tagle, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Sam A. Lindsay, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Judith M. Barzilay, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Delissa A. Ridgway, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Pages S1808–09

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Thomas Ehrlich, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of five years.

Dorothy A. Johnson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term of five years.

Alice Rae Yelen, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the National Museum Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2001.

Stephen C. Robinson, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of four years.

Page S1809

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of the withdrawal of the following nomination:

Ida L. Castro, of New York, to be Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, which was sent to the Senate on October 9, 1997.

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Messages From the President:

Page S1772

Messages From the House:

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Executive Reports of Committees:

Page S1772

Statements on Introduced Bills:

Pages S1772–84

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S1784–85

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S1785–97

Authority for Committees:

Page S1797

Additional Statements:

Pages S1797–S1803

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total–28)

Pages S1752, S1757, S1762–63

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 6:48 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 12, 1998. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record, on page S1808.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS—DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense, focusing on Navy and Marine Corps programs, receiving testimony from John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy; Adm. Jay L. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations; and Gen. Charles C. Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday, March 18.

AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland Forces held hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on land forces modernization, receiving testimony from Lt. Gen. Paul J. Kern, USA, Military Deputy Director/Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition); Lt. Gen. John N. Abrams, USA, Deputy Commanding General, United States Training and Doctrine Command; Maj. Gen. Michael J. Williams, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command; and Lt. Gen. John E. Rhodes, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

Subcommittee will meet again on Wednesday, March 25.

AUTHORIZATION—DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel held hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1999 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on the military health system, receiving testimony from Gary A. Christopherson, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Lt. Gen. Ronald R. Blanck, USA, Surgeon General of the Army; Vice Adm. Harold M. Koenig, USN, Surgeon General of the Navy; Lt. Gen. Charles E. Roadman, II, USAF,